



MITCHELL COUNTY FSA NEWS

August 2003

Mitchell County FSA
2302C N. Hwy 208
Colorado City, TX 79512
Phone: (915) 728-2651
Fax: (915) 728-2960

Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

COC Members

Robert Cox, *Chairman*
Lynn Bradbury, *V. Chairman*
Russell Erwin, *Member*
Frank Garcia, *Minority Advisor*

Office Staff

Keith Hiser, *CED*
Wilda Vincent, *PT*
Joe Davila, *PT*
Karen Nachlinger, *PT*
Donna Madrid, *PT*

FLP Staff – (Sweetwater office)

Roger Kalina – *FLM*
Joey James Giustino – *FLOT*
Linda Bennett – *PT*
Carla Becker – *PT*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Anytime – Call for an appointment for all program activity

Within 15 days – File an FSA-576, Notice of Loss for any non-insurable crop, which you purchased a policy including native and improved pastures.

September 1 – Labor Day - Office closed

September 1 – Final date to purchase NAP coverage on any small grain grazing crop

September 30 – Final day to purchase NAP coverage on any small grain forage (hay)

September 30 – Final date to purchase and/or revise any next year Crop Insurance coverage for wheat, oats, and barley



COC ELECTIONS

Elections will be held in December to choose a representative to serve on the Mitchell County Committee (COC). We are currently seeking individuals to be placed on the election ballot. Nominations will be accepted through September 5th. For the first time, there is no minimum number of nominees required on the ballot if a nominating petition is received from an eligible voter. If no nominating forms are received, the Committee must complete a slate of three nominees.

The Committee administers federal farm programs at the local level.

FSA County Committees:

- Make decisions on yields
- Make decisions on disaster programs
- Make decisions on conservation programs
- Make decisions on general program eligibility, and
- Hear appeals from producers who have received notice of adverse decisions



All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the COC and vote in the elections.

COC Election Calendar

Today – Request nomination forms and begin nominations

September 5th – Last day to file nomination form

November 18th – Ballots will be mailed to voters from FSA

December 1st – Final day to return ballots

December 8th – Last day to count ballots

January 1st – Elected committee member and alternates take office

2001/02 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Disaster program sign-up began June 6. **No ending date has been announced.** Producers are eligible for disaster benefits for if a qualifying quality loss exceeds 20 percent.

Producers with production losses are still eligible for the disaster program if the crop sustained at least a 35% reduction in yield. We are conducting this sign up by appointment only. Many producers who have applied are eligible based on production losses while some are not. There is no way to know exactly your individual eligibility until you apply and submit all required documents.



LINKAGE FOR DISASTER PROGRAM

Producers receiving a disaster payment are required to purchase **Buy-Up Crop Insurance** for the next 2 years. If insurance is not available for your crop, you must purchase NAP coverage on that crop for the next 2 years. Failure to purchase insurance or NAP requires you to refund the total CDP payment plus interest.

DCP FARM PROGRAM MAINTENANCE

DCP Farm program participants are required to protect all contract acres from erosion and weeds. Failure to do so may result in loss of program benefits and/or liquidated damages.

2003 NAP APPLICATIONS

Small grain forage (grazing or hay) is an eligible NAP crop in Mitchell County. Sales closing dates are soon approaching. All sign-up dates are different for 2003, so please review these dates.

Crop	Grazing Period	Sales Closing Date	Final Planting Date	Acreage Reporting Date
Wheat	Fall/Winter Full Season	9-1-02	10-1-02	10-16-02
Oats	Fall/Winter Full Season	9-1-02	10-1-02	10-16-02
Rye	Fall/Winter Full Season	9-1-02	10-1-02	10-16-02
Triticale	Fall/Winter Full Season	9-1-02	10-1-02	10-16-02

Crop	Intended Use	Sales Closing Date	Final Planting Date	Acreage Reporting Date
Wheat	Forage	9-30-02	12-15-02	5-1-03
Oats	Forage	9-30-02	2-15-03	5-1-03
Rye	Forage	9-30-02	12-15-02	5-1-03
Triticale	Forage	9-30-02	12-15-02	5-1-03

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Keith Hiser at (915) 728-2651 or e-mail keith.hiser@tx.usda.gov

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited Bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disability who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Farm Service Agency
Mitchell County FSA Office
2302C N. Hwy 208
Colorado City, TX 79512

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, \$500

LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sign up for the Livestock Assistance Program LAP began August 6, 2003. The Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 authorized \$250 million to provide assistance to producers who have suffered grazing losses due to weather-related disasters or other emergency conditions.



As with the Crop Disaster Program, producers have a choice of receiving payments for 2001 or 2002 losses. The payment period for 2001 is June 1, 2001-November 19, 2001. The payment period for 2002 is May 12, 2002-November 19, 2002. Therefore just looking at number of days, assuming number of livestock and acres grazed are the same, 2002 would pay more than 2001, but if there are any differences in the number of head and/or acres actually grazed then either year could be more beneficial over the other. LAP is intended to address the needs of producers who were not adequately covered by the Livestock Compensation Program. Producers cannot receive payments under both programs for the same loss.

A producer's LAP payment will be reduced

Because funding for LAP III is limited, a national factor will apply. The factor will be announced after sign-up period ends. Adjusted Gross Income limitations will also apply.

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